

# Cause and Effect Lesson Plan

Students understand and locate cause and effect relationships when reading

**Grades(s)** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

**Subjects(s)** Reading

## Objective

Students understand cause and effect relationships and recognize them when reading and writing

## Materials

Children's books or stories for examples (e.g., The Three Pigs, etc.)

Two highlighters per student (yellow and green)

Large poster paper for group work

Printed copies of a story or chapter on grade level

## Lesson

Focus: Read a short children's book to the class. After reading the story, ask the class why specific events took place. What led to each event? Make a T Chart on the board and list causes and effects of events as they happened in the story

1. Make a list of possible causes and have students brainstorm for possible effects.

*Examples:*

Pete spilled hot cocoa on his shirt

Sally missed the school bus

John forgot to lock the front door

Mary's car would not start

Jack didn't make the basketball team

2. Make a list of possible effects and have students brainstorm for possible causes

*Examples:*

Bob fell as he entered the classroom

Sheryl didn't have her homework for science

Felipe didn't eat his hamburger

Ellie couldn't stop laughing

The entire class had upset stomachs

3. After brainstorming and discussing the examples, students work in pairs to identify cause and effect relationships identified in "The Three Brothers" story. Using poster paper, each pair makes a large T Chart of causes and effects found in the story. After all students are finished, the charts are displayed for all to see and discuss. Students then share their endings to the story.

# Cause and Effect Story

1. Read the following story and highlight causes in yellow and effects in green.
2. Write a one paragraph ending to the story and include at least one cause and effect relationship.

## The Three Brothers

Mrs. Deliworthy decided that it was time her three sons to move to their own homes since they were in their thirties and were out of school. She called them together and informed them of her decision. The brothers were not happy about moving out but enthusiastically made plans for their futures.

The oldest brother, a doctor making lots of money, decided to build his home in a gated community close to the hospital. The middle brother, a car salesman, decided to use his discount to purchase an expensive motor home. The youngest brother, a juggler, decided to join the circus and live in a tent.

The three brothers loved their new homes and each invited his mom to dinner to show her how well he was doing. Being the youngest, the juggler was allowed to go first. He rode a circus elephant to pick up his mom. She rode in grand style back to his tent and was served a delicious dinner by the circus acrobats. However, Babu, the head trapeze artist, got a little carried away during a practice, and knocked the juggler's mom out of the tent and into the lion's cage. She barely escaped with her life and swore she would never return.

Being the middle brother, the car salesman was next in line to show his mother how successful he had become. He arranged to pick her up in his motor home. She was delighted to find that he had set the table with fine linen and had prepared a roasted chicken. He pleased her and told her to enjoy herself as he drove around the city to show her the sites. The drive was very relaxing because the car salesman was smart enough to install a tranquil CD and drive only on non crowded streets. Unfortunately, a squirrel ran in front of the motor home prompting the middle brother to stomp on the brakes. As he looked back at his mom, he saw that the chicken was lodged in the poor woman's throat, and he had to perform the Heimlich Maneuver. His mother ordered him to take her home, and she told him she would never again visit him in his motor home.

Since his other two brothers had failed to impress their mother, the oldest brother knew it was up to him. He sent his chauffeur to his mom's house to pick her up and bring her back to his three story home in the gated community. She felt like a movie star as she passed through the gate in her oldest son's limo and arrived in front of his elegant home. A meal was prepared for her on the balcony of the third floor. The poor lady was exhausted by the time she had climbed three flights of stairs but tried not to show her irritation with her oldest son. Unfortunately, a bird flew over about this time, and dropped a surprise into her coffee. The worm, feeling relieved and hot at the same time, was hurled by the shocked Mrs. Deliworthy across the table into the dismayed son's face. Mrs. Deliworthy insisted that the limo driver carry her down the stairs and drive her home, vowing never to return to her oldest son's home.